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BARKER, IRL RAMON
(1898-1994)
PAPERS
1909-[1937-1987]-1994

Processed by:

Harry A. Stokes
Archival Technical Services

Date Completed: July 15, 2003
Accession Number: 2003.014
Location: XI-E-5-6; Top; Vault VIII-D-2v
Microfilm Accession Number: 1715

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INTRODUCTION

This finding aid focuses on the papers of Irl Ramon Barker, accountant and genealogist, born in Benton County, Tennessee. Spanning the years 1904-1994, although the bulk is largely centered between 1937-1987, the papers contain considerable genealogical data on the Barker and Utley families, supplemented with many photographs and negatives. Also contained in the collection are materials relating to Irl Barker and his activities with the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis railway. Other items within the collection include clippings, correspondence, legal documents, and obituaries. The materials were donated by Mrs. Elsie U. Barker, the wife of the late Irl R. Barker.

The materials in the collection originally measured 14.0 cubic feet, but was reduced to 7.0 cubic feet by the removal of numerous financial documents (bills and receipts) and other extraneous materials. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Irl R. Baker Papers may be made for individual or scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Irl Ramon Barker Papers, containing approximately 1200 items, span the period 1904-1994, although the bulk is largely centered in the years 1937-1987. The collection is composed of cemetery records, church records, clippings, correspondence, genealogical data, legal documents, railroad records, obituaries, photographs, and negatives.

A major portion of the collection consists of correspondence and genealogical data. Correspondence has been arranged into two categories: family and general. The genealogical data relates to the Barker and Utley families and related lines.

Supplementing the genealogical information are numerous photographs and negatives, most of which relate to the Barker family and their descendants of Benton County, Tennessee.

Mr. Barker was employed as an accountant with the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis railway for sixteen years. Reflecting his activities and interest in this railroad are photographs and negatives picturing various activities. Also included are newsletters and correspondence concerning ex-employees' annual meetings.

Among the newspaper clippings is an interesting account of a trial of three Chicago men charged with the biggest robbery in the annals of crime, \$100,000 in unset diamonds. Mr. Barker, as a juror in this trial, not only saved newspapers accounts of the trial, but also recorded his daily recollections in a small notebook (see Box 1, Folder 19).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Irl Ramon Barker

- 1898 September 25, born at Holladay, Benton County, Tennessee, son of Dr. Robert Lewis and Tessie Willie Utley Barker.
- 1904-1916 Educated in Camden and Nashville public schools.
- 1919 Attended Draughon's Business College, Nashville, Tennessee.
- 1920-1930 Timekeeper and Commissary clerk with N. C. & St. L. railway.
- 1924 July 20, married Mildred Aline Denning.
- 1930-1938 Credit manager-Office manager with the 638 tire Co. and the Goodrich Silvertown Stores in Nashville, Tennessee.
- 1938-1940 Odd jobs.
- 1940-1942 Auditor, bookkeeper and office manager with E. Gray Smith, Packard Automobile dealer, Nashville, Tennessee.
- 1942-1958 Accountant with N. C. & St. L. railway.
- 1958-1964 Accountant/auditor in Public Works Department, Nashville, Tennessee.
- 1965-1972 Manager of Belle Meade Tower Apartments.
- 1979 _____ married Elsie Utley Powell.
- 1985 Removed to Tuscaloosa, Alabama.
- 1994 November 18, died at his home in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and interred at Woodlawn Cemetery in Nashville, Tennessee.

CONTAINER LIST

Microfilm Reel #1

Box 1

1. Anniversaries—Wedding—Irl R. and Mildred A. Barker, 1974
2. Application for employment—Irl Barker
3. Associations, institutions, etc.—Nashville Retail Credit Association
4. Associations, institutions, etc. Nashville Rose Society
5. Cards—misc.—Irl R. Barker
6. Cemetery records—Barker Family Cemetery, Benton County, Tennessee
7. Certificates—Auto registration—Irl R. Barker
8. Certificates—Municipal Finance and Accounting Institute—Irl R. Barker, 11/14/1958
9. Certified Public Accountants' (C.P.A.) exam—Irl R. Barker
10. Church records—Cowell's Chapel United Methodist Church
11. Church records—First Church of the Nazarene, Nashville, Tennessee
12. Clippings—Dan and Karen Phifer Barker, 1982
13. Clippings—Mrs. Harold Freeman Barker
14. Clippings—Irl R. Barker
15. Clippings—Lucy Barker
16. Clippings—Fall School, Nashville, Tennessee
17. Clippings—"The Foursquare Babes," 1928
18. Clippings—Harley and Lois Goff
19. Clippings—\$100,000 Diamond Robbery Case, 1950
20. Clippings—Uldine Utley, Evangelist
21. Clippings—misc.

Box 2

Correspondence—Family

1. Dan and Karen Barker
2. Estelle Barker
3. Harold Barker
4. James Buford Barker
5. Kim Barker
6. Lucy Barker
7. Reuben Barker
8. Rob and Robin Barker
9. Robert Lewis Barker
10. Jessie (Utley) Barker
11. Wade Barker
12. Robert Benson
13. Brenda Brown
14. Lola Badhaine

Microfilm Reel #2

15. Herbert and Mattie Brown
16. Johnny and Mary Denning
17. Leroy Denning
18. Rex Denning
19. Norma Dildine
20. Harley and Caroline Goff
21. Harold A. Goff
22. Lois (Barker) Goff
23. Sue (Lavier) and Dan Hall
24. Myrtle Hardin
25. James Kuykendall
26. Dorothy Lavier
27. Ruby Mathews
28. Frank and Christine Mayer

Box 3**Correspondence**

1. Family—Thelma and Catherine McColpin
2. Family—Ron and Micki Powell
3. Family—Carol Sluder
4. Family—Deborah Thomison
5. Family—unknown
6. General—“A”

Microfilm Reel #3

7. General—“B”
8. General—“C”

Box 4**Correspondence—General**

1. “D”
2. “E”
3. “F-G”
4. “H”

Microfilm Reel #4

5. “I-J-K”
6. “L”
7. “M”
8. “N-O”

9. "P-Q"
10. "R"

Box 5

Correspondence—General/Other

1. "S"
2. "T"
3. "U-V"

Microfilm Reel #5

4. "W"
5. "X-Y-Z"
6. Unknown
7. Diaries, memoirs, etc.—Irl R. Barker
8. Estate papers—Reuben E. Barker
9. Financial documents—Bills and receipts—Mrs. J. C. M. Rogers to R. L. Barker, 1913
10. Financial documents—Promissory notes—Irl and Mildred Barker, 1970, 1973

Box 6

1. Funeral data—Irl Ramon Barker, 1994
2. Funeral data—Mildred (Denning) Barker, 1976
3. Genealogical data—Allen-Barker
4. Genealogical data—Barker, Briggs (1830-1876)
5. Genealogical data—Barker, Briggs (1876-1960)
6. Genealogical data—Barker, Clifford Lewis (1907-1973)
7. Genealogical data—Barker, Elliott
8. Genealogical data—Barker, George ("Buck")
9. Genealogical data—Barker, George W. (1874-1936)
10. Genealogical data—Barker, George—Volunteer in war with Mexico

Microfilm Reel #6

Box 7

Genealogical Data

1. Barker, James Clinton, Jr.
2. Barker, Joel and descendants
3. Barker, Kim
4. Barker, Lewis (1735-1839)
5. Barker, Mary—Benton Co., Tennessee
6. Barker, Mary—North Carolina
7. Barker, Patsy—O'Brien
8. Barker, Pernissa—daughter of Edmond Barker
9. Barker, Robert—North Carolina
10. Barker, Dr. Robert Lewis (1872-1914)

11. Barker, Ronnie—Camden, Tennessee
12. Barker, Roy E.—Franklin, Tennessee
13. Barker, Sarah L.—Tresevant, Tennessee
14. Barker, Sister Mildred—Maine
15. Barker, Squire Leander—Jonesboro, Virginia
16. Barker, Terry P.—Paoli, Indiana
17. Barker, Dr. Thomas E.—Ft. Worth, Texas
18. Barker, William P.—Allentown, Pennsylvania
19. Barker, W. C. (Cordus)—Purcell, Oklahoma
20. Barker, William Green (1870-1951)
21. Barker, Zachariah (1795-1866)

Box 8

Genealogical Data

1. Barker-Duvall, Salina Frances
2. Barker-Hardin, Leona Victoria
3. Barker-Hatley, Melissa Bell
4. Barker-Rogers, Cordelie Adaline
5. Barker-Utley

Microfilm Reel #7

6. Barker-miscellaneous
7. "Barker News"

Box 9

Genealogical Data

1. Cowell-Barker
2. Crockett-Barker
3. Denning
4. Gossett, R. E.
5. Hardin/Hardin
6. Hardin—Camden, Tennessee
7. Latham—Nora Barker
8. Laycach-Utley
9. Rogers, Robert Levi—Benton Co., Tennessee
10. Utley, Ben Rogers—South Carolina
11. Utley, Jay—Long Beach, California
12. Utley, Samuel--Massachusetts
13. Utley-Barker

Microfilm Reel #8

14. Utley-miscellaneous

Box 10

1. Insurance papers—Provident Life and Accident Insurance co.
2. Job applications—Irl R. Barker
3. Land records—Deed—Irl R. Barker, et ux, to Frank Carter, et ux, 1966
4. Land records—Deed—R. L. Barker, et ux, to W. T. Morris, 1912
5. Land records—Deed—A. A. Horn and W. D. Horn to R. L. Barker and wife Jessie Barker, 1913
6. Land records—Warranty Deed—I. W. Gibson and wife Mary Gibson to A. A. Horn and W. D. Horn, 1907
7. Land records—Warranty Deed—J. L. Holland to A. A. and Isabel Dwalt, 1911
8. Legal documents—Agreement—Rebecca M. Knox and Irl R. and Elsie U. Barker, 1980
9. Legal documents—Deed of Trust—Irl Ramon Barker and wife Mildred A. Barker to Guaranty Bank and Trust Co., 1927
10. Legal documents—Deed of Trust—Irl R. Barker and Mildred A. Barker to Albert H. Thomas, Trustee, 1937
11. Legal documents—First Deed of Trust—Irl R. Barker and wife Mildred A. Barker to Albert H. Thomas, Trustee for Nashville Trust Co., 1943
12. Legal documents—Last Will and Testament—Irl R. Barker, 1938
13. Legal documents—Loan Agreement—Prudential Insurance of America to Irl R. Barker and wife Mildred Aline Barker, 1932
14. Legal documents—Lease—The Fountains and Irl Barker, 1973-1980
15. Legal documents—Wills—Miscellaneous
16. N. C. & St. L. Railway—Ex-employees annual meetings
17. N. C. & St. L. Railway—Newsletters, passes, etc.
18. Notebooks—miscellaneous—Irl Barker
19. Obituaries—Reuben E. Barker
20. Obituaries—Pauline Maryman Clardy, 1977
21. Obituaries—Lillian Mayer Felts, 1973
22. Obituaries—Ethel Hall Jarrett, 1954
23. Obituaries—William Lavier, 1976
24. Obituaries—E. Gray Smith, 1893-1981

Box 11**1. Photographs (8 x 10)**

Auditor of Disbursements Office, N. C. & St. L. Railway, Oct. 1, 1957

Irl Barker, et al

R. L. Barker and family, Halladay, Tennessee, August 1908

R. L. Barker and family, Camden, Tennessee, 1909 (4)

Robert Lewis Barker

Dr. Robert Lewis Barker and early 1900 Benton Co., Tennessee, doctors

Will Barker, et al (8)

Rosemary Burkart, et al (3)

Colwell's Chapel M. E. Church, Benton Co., Tennessee (17)
Willie Jim Edgmon, 1906
Home of Irl and Mildred Barker
Rev. Rex Humbard and family, Dixie Tabernacle, Nashville, Tennessee
Judson Memorial Baptist Sunday School
N. C. & St. L. Railway (7)
Dr. L. M. Sipes, Kansas City, Evangelist
E. Gray Smith bldg., Nashville, Tennessee
Town Terrace Motel, Tipton, Georgia (2)
Gov. George Wallace (2)

Microfilm Reel #9

2. Photographs (5 x 7)

Alex Allen and family
Briggs and Martha (McClure) Barker (2)
George and Nora Barker
Ira Barker, Elsie Powell, et al (2)
Zacharia and Elmira Etta (Holland) Barker and family
Barker's Jewelry Store, Camden, Tennessee, 1972
Benton Co. Courthouse, Camden, Tennessee, 1972
Mellie Bromley (2)
George H. Cowell and family, 1904/1905
Draughon Business College, Nashville, Tennessee
Draughon Business College, Nashville, Tennessee
Harley and Mae Goff
Allen U. Hardin and family (3)
Melissa Hatley and family
Gary Odom and family
J. C. Rogers
N. C. & St. L. Railway Emblem Painting
Rev. Charles Turner—the boy preacher
Young Men's Class at Colwell's Chapel, 1916/1917
Miscellaneous—unknown (4)

3. Photographs (4 x 5)

Nettie Abbay
Allice Allen
Arlie and Lela Mae Allen
James Virgil Allen and wife
Alvin Anderson and Isabell D. Duvall (2)
Bardstown, Kentucky (3)
Briggs Barker

Briggs and Martha Elizabeth (Kirk) Barker, c. 1900
Howard Barker
Irl Barker (4)
Irl Barker and _____
Irl Barker and Bobby Fulton
Irl Barker, Lois (Barker) Goff, et al (8)
Irl Barker and Rose Marie Hendon (2)
Irl Barker and Marion Jewell
Irl Barker and Thelma McColpin (3)
Irl Barker and Odell Marie Parrish-Allen
Irl Barker and Bernice Rogers
Irl Barker, et al (4)
Irl and Mildred Barker (2)
Irl and Mildred Barker's home at 2038 Elliott Ave., Nashville, Tennessee
J. C. M and Cordelia Barker-Rogers
Mrs. Jennie Barker
Mildred Denning Barker (?) (4)
Reuben E. Barker (2)
Dr. R. L. Barker and family Nashville residence, 1905 (2)
Robert Lewis barker
Robert Lewis and Jessie (Utley) Barker home
Tessie (Utley) Barker (2)
Tessie (Utley) Barker, et al (5)
Thelma Barker
Wade and Elizabeth Barker
Mrs. Lola Branch and Elizabeth _____
Gertie Bryant (2)
Veachel Bryant
Chuck Buckart
Cemeteries markers (30)
W. R. Champion
W. R. Champion and Effie Thompson
Frankie and Judy Dasher and children (7)
Leroy Denning (6)
Mildred Denning and Gertie Bryant (2)
Nettie Lou Denning
Isabell Duvall (2)
Harold Freeman and Ann Brooks-Barnes Barker and children
Dorothy and Robert Goff
Lois and Harley Goff
Gracie Hardin
Pauline Hardin and Gale Faulkner

Tom and Addie Hatley
Edith Holland, Nettie Tippet, Ruby Mathews
George and Burdine Holtzscher
C. P. and Mildred Hudson (3)
Ruby M. James
Liberty Methodist Church, Benton Co., Tennessee
Della Gray Like and children
Loretta Lynn's home at Hurricane Mills, Tennessee (8)
Thelma and Cecil McColpin, et al
H. C. and Ruby (Barker) Rogers
Alice Rogers-Hartley
George, Nancy Elaine, and Allen Lee Standleigh
Betty Street (4)
Lola Templeton (19)
Lola Templeton and Irl Barker (2)
Union Station Hotel lobby
Berdine Utley
Jack and violet Van Gundy and Irl Barker
Miscellaneous—unknown (17)

Box 12

1. Programs—"Sleeping Beauty"—Ryman Auditorium, May 17, 1920
2. Publications—Booklet—"The Barker Family and Utley Family"
3. Publications—Brochure—"The Belle Meade Tower Apartment"
4. Publications—Magazine—"The Connecticut Yankee," April/May/June, 1992
5. Tax records—Irl Barker, et ux, 1943-1987

Box 13

Negatives (located at VIII-D-2v)

N. 1-N. 42—Irl Barker
N.43-N. 83—Mildred Denning
N. 84-N.119—Irl Barker and Mildred Denning

Box 14

Negatives (located at VIII-D-2v)

N. 120-N. 129—Irl Barker, et al
N. 130—Dr. Robert Lewis Barker
N. 131—Dr. R. L. Barker and family
N. 132—Will Barker and family
N. 133—Briggs Barker and wife (2)
N. 134—George W. Barker and family
N. 135—Aunt Melissa Barker-Utley

N. 136—Allen Hardin and family
N. 137—W. R. Champion and Effie
N. 138—J. C. M. Rogers and family
N. 139—Briggs Barker's home
N. 140—Cowell's Chapel Methodist Church group
N. 141—Young Men's Class at Colwells' Chapel
N. 142-N. 192—unknown
N. 193-N. 195—Maritime scenes
N. 196-N. 217—N. C. & St. L. Railway: construction, repairs, etc.
N. 218-N. 225—N. C. & St. L. Railway: locomotives and box cars
N. 226-N. 236—N. C. & St. L. Railway: water tanks
N. 237-N. 242—N. C. & St. L. Railway: bridges/trestles
N. 243-N. 245—N. C. & St. L. Railway: Hollow Rock Junction, Tennessee
N. 246-N. 247—N. C. & St. L. Railway: office
N. 248-N. 250—N. C. & St. L. Railway: workers

Box 15

Oversize

1. Certificate—Draughon's Business College—Irl Ramon Barker, 1930
2. Photographs—Camden, Tennessee School and student body, early 1900s